

TEXAS COMMISSION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Environmental Education: Ideas and Resources

***A Take Care of Texas
Guide for Teachers***





See a publication you like?

Find It Online

Visit Take Care of Texas to order these **free** educational materials <TakeCareOfTexas.org/publications>. Quantities may be limited.

Many of our publications are also available online in portable document format (PDF).

Printed publications may vary in appearance from the online version you download.

Get It in Spanish

Some of our publications are also available in Spanish. A  "signature" by Take Care of Texas mascots River and Sky—two Blue Lacys, the state dog of Texas—next to a title indicates a Spanish version in print.



As part of our Take Care of Texas campaign, we offer a wealth of resources for anyone teaching about the environment, including teachers, school administrators, parents, and leaders of youth groups. We have created this guide to make these resources more accessible. Please check out our educational programs, publications, and online materials.

Take Care of Texas publications are **free** when ordered through <TakeCareOfTexas.org/publications>. Quantities may be limited. For a complete listing of TCEQ publications, you can visit our webpage at <www.tceq.texas.gov/publications>.



Programs

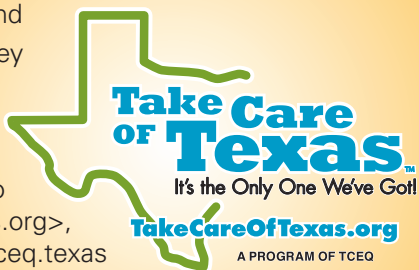
The TCEQ champions several programs designed to engage people—students included—in protecting our environment.

Take Care of Texas

Take Care of Texas is a statewide campaign that provides helpful information on Texas' successes in environmental protection and encourages all Texans to

- help keep our air and water clean,
- conserve water and energy,
- reduce waste, and
- save a little money in the process!

For more information about this program, go to <TakeCareOfTexas.org>, email <educate@tceq.texas.gov>, or call 512-239-3929.

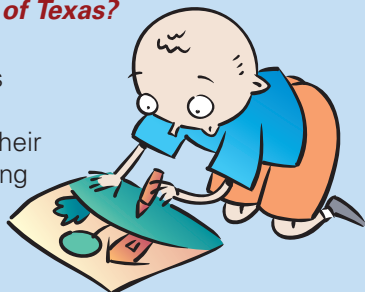


New Online Features

- Check out your environmental impact with the Make A Difference animated feature that calculates your family's water and energy usage and waste generated in your lifetime. Visit <TakeCareOfTexas.org/make-difference>.
- Explore three interactive posters. One teaches ways Texans can do their part for the environment and one illustrates the water cycle and human effects on water. Another poster teaches you how to stay safe in a flood. Visit <TakeCareOfTexas.org/posters>.

How Do You Take Care of Texas? K-5 Art Contest

The TCEQ and the Texas Chemical Council invite K-5 students to submit their artwork of how they, along with their friends and



family, help Take Care of Texas. One grand-prize winner receives a laptop computer and 15 students win a tablet. The teacher of the student who designs the overall best artwork will also be awarded a tablet. Visit <TakeCareOfTexas.org/art-contest>.

Take Care of Texas Video Contest

The TCEQ and Waste Management of Texas, Inc. invite students in grades 6–12 to film a 30-second video that shows positive ways to Take Care of Texas. Three 9th–12th grade students will be awarded scholarship funds (\$2,500, \$1,500, and \$500) and three 6th–8th grade students will receive GoPro cameras and accessories. Visit <TakeCareOfTexas.org/video-contest>.



Texas Stream Team

Texas Stream Team is a network of several hundred trained volunteers and students who collect water quality and environmental data on our state's lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, bays, bayous, and estuaries. The program is administered through a partnership between The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University, the TCEQ, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Many of the program's monitoring groups are composed of teachers and their students. Activities include core and advanced levels of water quality monitoring, riparian assessments, bioassessments, and special projects that can be done in class or after school. Texas Stream Team helps teachers effectively present TEKS-aligned concepts in biology, chemistry, and ecology, as well as STEM. Visit <www.meadowscenter.txstate.edu/Service/TexasStreamTeam/educators.html> for more information.

Teachers (and their students) can become certified Citizen Scientists and water quality monitors by completing a short training program. Teachers also can become certified trainers with

the ability to train students (in grades 5–12 and college) to become certified Citizen Scientists. Teacher workshops are offered each summer and the Texas Stream Team Nature Program Specialist is always available to assist with school projects.

To learn more, visit <joinstreamteam.org> or call the Texas Stream Team at 512-245-7551.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

Texans of all ages are urged to discover our natural treasures—among many, the country's seventh largest estuary, Galveston Bay. The Galveston Bay Estuary Program <gbep.texas.gov>, part of the TCEQ, works to conserve and manage the bay.

The program includes the Back the Bay campaign, an environmental education effort that connects citizens of the Galveston Bay area and beyond to opportunities for keeping the estuary healthy. Preservation tips and water-related educational materials are available at <backthebay.org>.

Publications

Take Care of Texas Publications

Take Care of Texas (GI-430)

Leaflet (8.5 × 11 in., 2 pp.) on everyday measures the public can take to help maintain environmental quality in Texas.

Suggested level: school administrators, teachers, students of all ages, parents

River and Sky's Lone Star Activity Book (GI-380)

Río y Cielo: Un libro texano de actividades (GI-380esp)

Activity and coloring book (8.5 × 11 in., 12 pp.), led by dog mascots River and Sky, teaches kids ways to care for the Texas environment.

Suggested level: students in grades K–5



Six Ways to Take Care of Texas bookmark (GI-324)

Seis maneras de cuidar a Texas

A bookmark (2.75 × 8 in., 2-sided bilingual) with tips reminding young Texans to keep our air and water clean and save energy and water.

Suggested level: students of all ages

Take Care of Texas River and Sky Kids' sticker (M-037)

Vinyl sticker (3.5 × 3.5 in.) with the Take Care of Texas message, featuring mascots River and Sky, two Blue Lacy dogs.

Suggested level: school administrators, teachers, students of all ages, parents



Be Water Wise at Home (GI-370)

Sea Prudente con el Agua en Casa

Six Driving Tips to Save You Money and Keep the Air Clean (GI-451)

Seis Tips de Conducción para Ahorrarte Dinero y Mantener el Aire Limpio

When Less = More: Energy-Conservation Tips (GI-388)

Cuando Menos = Más: Consejos para Conservar Energía

Clean Pipes are Green Pipes (GI-469)

La Tubería Limpia es Tubería Sana

Put Waste in Its Place (GI-448)

Ponga la basura en su lugar

Bilingual cards (4 × 8.5 in., 2-sided) with handy tips for conserving water and energy, recycling, and disposing of waste while saving money around the house.

Suggested level: school administrators, teachers, middle and high school students, parents, general public

Texas School Recycling Guide (GI-030)

Booklet (8.5 × 11 in., 16 pp.) provides Texas schools guidance on reducing waste and starting a recycling program.

Suggested level: school administrators, teachers, middle and high school students

Take Care of Texas Air Activity poster (GI-437)



Tenga cuidado de cartel de actividad de aire de Texas (GI-437esp)

Poster (18 × 24 in., 2-sided) showing how you can Take Care of Texas to improve environmental quality. Activities included on the back.

Suggested level: teachers of grades 4–8, but easily adaptable for any grade

How To Stay Safe in a Flood (GI-454)



Cómo Permanecer Fuera de Peligro en una Inundación (GI-454esp)

Poster (18 × 24 in., 2-sided) illustrates various hazards that can be present in a flood. Activities included on the back.

Suggested level: teachers of grades 4–8, but easily adaptable for any grade

What Do I Do With It Now? A Quick Guide to Recycling Resources (GI-288)

Brochure (3.75 × 9 in., 6 panels) devoted to recycling resources in your community.

Suggested level: school administrators, teachers, middle and high school students, parents, general public

Take Care of Texas sticker (M-017)

Texas-shaped sticker (4 in. × 4 in.) enhanced with the Take Care of Texas logo.

Suggested level: school administrators, teachers, students of all ages, parents



e-Newsletters

Take Care of Texas News You Can Use

Monthly e-newsletter offers current information on environmental topics of interest and includes updates to our publications. Sign up today, or download past issues at <TakeCareOfTexas.org/newsletter>.

Suggested level: school administrators, teachers, middle and high school students, parents, general public

Take Care of Texas Educator Newsletter

Quarterly e-newsletter with information for teaching kids about the environment. It includes free lesson plans and publications, articles about green classrooms and schools, ideas for service projects, and more! Sign up today, or download past issues at <TakeCareOfTexas.org/media/educator-newsletter>.

Suggested level: school administrators and teachers

Water Publications



Water Recycles: The Complete Story (GI-403)

El Reciclo del Agua (GI-403esp)

Color poster (18 × 22 in., 2-sided) illustrates steps in the water cycle and human activities that can affect water. Back of poster has narrative information on water, as well as activities and puzzles.

Suggested level: teachers, students in grades 3–12

Rainwater Harvesting (GI-404)

Manual (8.5 × 11 in., 36 pp.) covers building simple to complex systems to capture, store, and use rainwater to water landscape plants.

Suggested level: school administrators, teachers, and groundskeepers, students of all ages, parents, general public

A Guide to Freshwater Ecology (GI-034)

Manual (8 × 12 in., 122 pp.) familiarizes the reader with a variety of important freshwater ecosystems, including water quality and freshwater invertebrates, fish, and plants.

Suggested level: teachers, students from grade 7 to college level

Field Guide to Water Education (GI-026)

A guide (8.5 × 11 in., 72 pp.) for use by instructors with students of all ages that includes an introduction to the water cycle, aquatic life, and water pollution, as well as lesson plans and handouts.

Suggested level: teachers of students at all grade levels

Turn Off the Faucet. Every Drop Counts mirror cling (M-038)

Vinyl static-cling mirror sticker (4 × 4 in.) with a water-conservation message.

Suggested level: school administrators, teachers, students of all ages, parents, general public



Air Publications

Ozone: The Facts (GI-435)

Brochure (4 × 8.5 in., 8 panels) answering general questions about ozone.

Suggested level: teachers, middle and high school students, parents, general public

Particulate Matter: The Facts (GI-274)

Brochure (4 × 8.5 in., 8 panels) answering general questions about particulate matter.

Suggested level: teachers, middle and high school students, parents, general public

General Environmental Publications

Take Care of Texas Guide to Yard Care (GI-465)

Leaflet (8.5 × 11 in., 20pp.) helping you maintain a healthy yard, save money, and take care of our state's varied landscapes.

Suggested level: school administrators, teachers, middle and high school students, parents, general public

What is Toxicology? (GI-426)

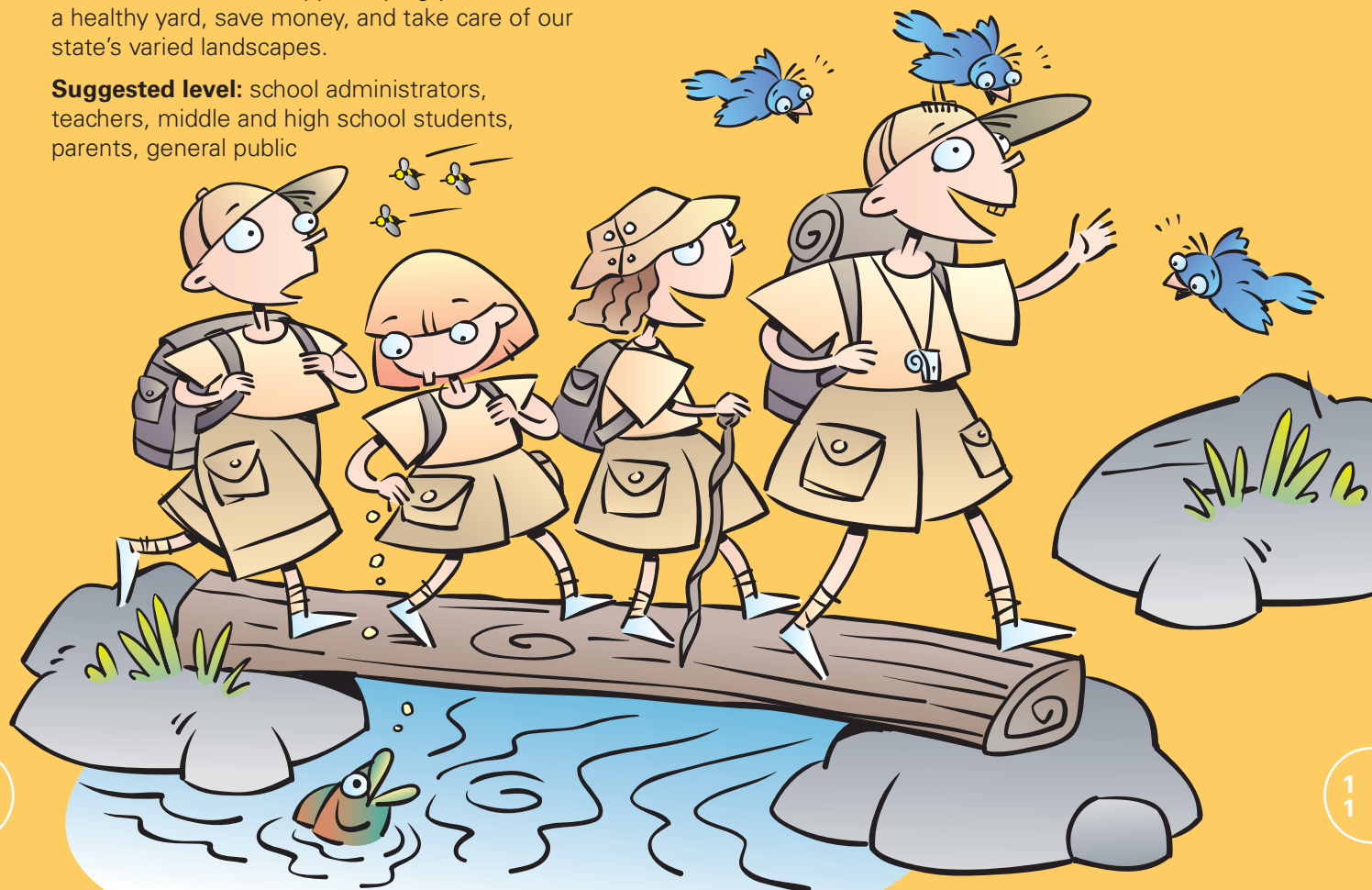
Brochure (3.75 × 9 in., 6 panels) covering toxicology and its role in helping the TCEQ measure the effect of adverse chemicals on air, water, and land.

Suggested level: teachers, students from grade 7 to college level

TCEQNews

TCEQNews is an online, direct-to-the-public news source that focuses on providing timely and insightful reports about environmental issues affecting the state of Texas. Visit <www.tceq.texas.gov/news/tceqnews/tceqnews>.

Suggested level: teachers, students from middle and high school to college level, school administrators, teachers, parents, general public

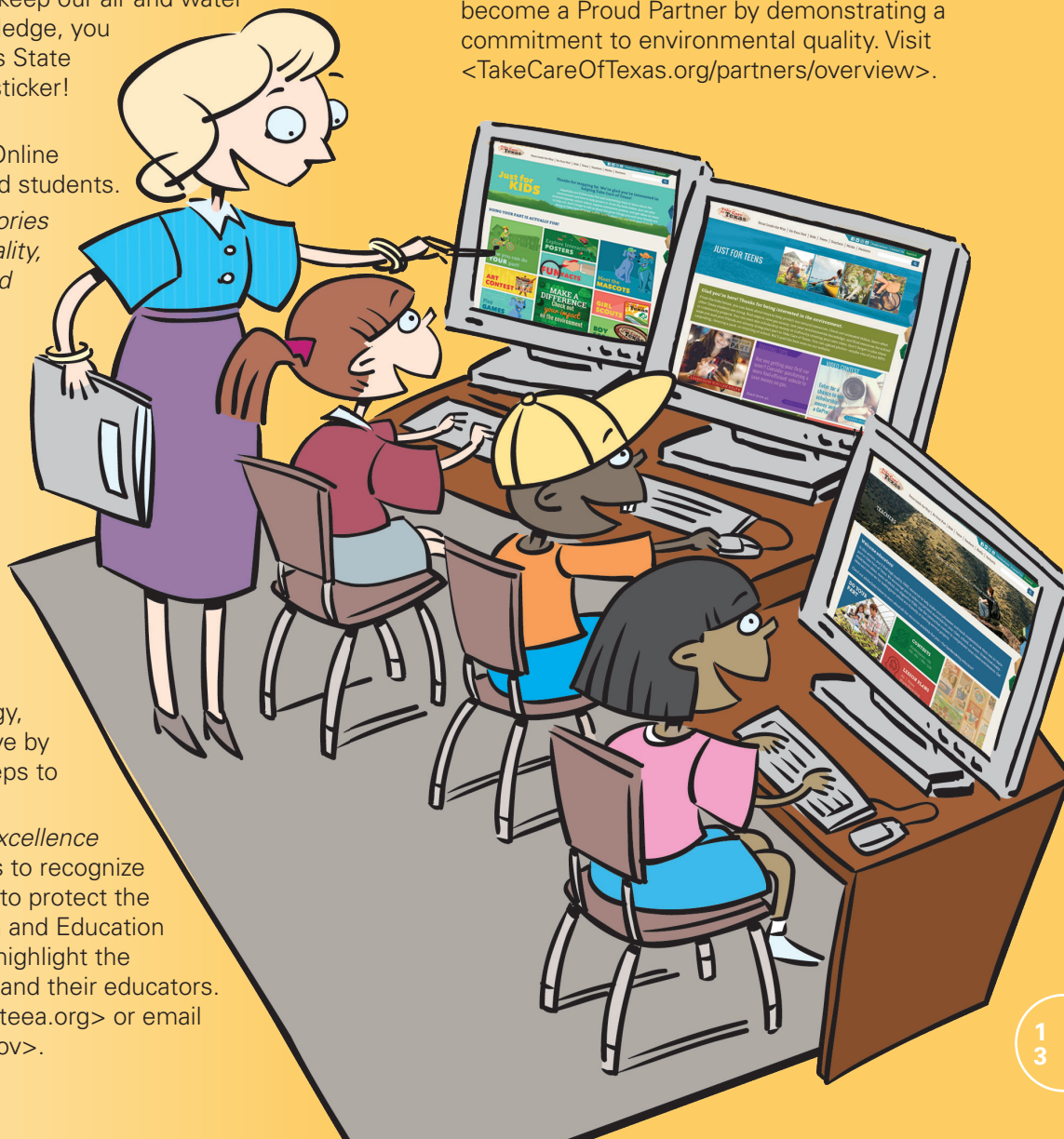


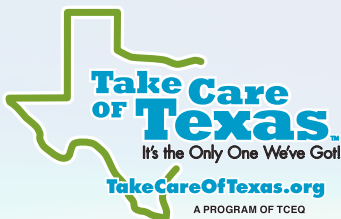
Other Media Materials

<TakeCareOfTexas.org> also offers other media materials and programs to help Texans in their environmental efforts, such as:

- *Pledge to Take Care of Texas.* Texans are encouraged to pledge online to conserve water and energy, and keep our air and water clean. If you take the pledge, you will receive a **free** Texas State Park Guide and a **free** sticker! (While supplies last.)
- *Test your knowledge.* Online quizzes for teachers and students.
- *Texas-sized success stories about air and water quality, water conservation, and waste reduction.* Did you know that from 2000 to 2017, ozone concentrations in Texas decreased by 30 percent?
- *Share Your Story.* A chance to tell us ways you Take Care of Texas.
- *Savings Calculator.* A tool to help you estimate how much household water, energy, and money you can save by taking some simple steps to Take Care of Texas.
- *Texas Environmental Excellence Awards.* Annual awards to recognize Texans for their efforts to protect the environment. The Youth and Education categories specifically highlight the successes of students and their educators. Apply online at <www.teea.org> or email <awards@tceq.texas.gov>.

- *Public service announcements for radio and television.*
- *Six interactive games.*
- *Banner ads and widgets.* Say “Take Care of Texas” with these animated banner ads and static widgets. Simple to add to your own website! Visit <TakeCareOfTexas.org/media/free-widgets>.
- *Proud Partner Pledge.* Your school or PTA can become a Proud Partner by demonstrating a commitment to environmental quality. Visit <TakeCareOfTexas.org/partners/overview>.





Check out



facebook.com/TakeCareOfTexas



twitter.com/TakeCareOfTX



youtube.com/user/TCEQNews



instagram.com/TakeCareOfTX



pinterest.com/TakeCareOfTexas

How are we doing?

Please fill out our online customer satisfaction survey
at www.tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey



GI-079 (revised 11/19)

[TakeCareOfTexas.org/
publications](http://TakeCareOfTexas.org/publications)



*printed on recycled paper
using vegetable-based ink*

The TCEQ is an equal opportunity employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document may be requested in alternate formats by contacting the TCEQ at 512-239-0010, 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD), or by writing P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.